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INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8370  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0988  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ SEP 9657  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6545  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7229

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 003403

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/11/2018  
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [CO](#) [BL](#)  
SUBJECT: GOC BRACES FOR INCREASED U.S.-BOLIVIAN TENSIONS

REF: MCMULLEN-NICHOLS 9/11 TELCON

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Brian A. Nichols for Reasons 1.4 (b)  
& (d)

(C) Charge reviewed current state of U.S.-Bolivian relations with Minister of Defense Juan Manuel Santos and, separately, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Camilo Reyes on September 11. Charge explained that Bolivian President Evo Morales' decision to expel the U.S. ambassador, despite our longstanding efforts to forge a constructive bilateral relationship would have very serious consequences. In response, the U.S. would declare the Bolivian Ambassador to the U.S. Gustavo Guzman persona non grata. The Charge also noted that some in Congress wished to exclude Bolivia from renewal of ATPDEA trade preferences. Santos responded that Morales bore the blame for his actions, and expelling the Bolivian Ambassador "had to be done." Reyes characterized Bolivian President Morales' recent actions as foolish and added that Morales' advisors had served to radicalize him, and feed his worst populist instincts. Reyes said Morales had damaged relations with the U.S., Europe, his Andean neighbors, and the non-indigenous portion of the Bolivian population.  
NICHOLS